

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Wood et al.

Serial No.: 10/666,742

Filed: September 19, 2003

For: METHODS FOR THINNING
SEMICONDUCTOR SUBSTRATES THAT
EMPLOY SUPPORT STRUCTURES
FORMED ON THE SUBSTRATES
(Amended)

Confirmation No.: 6057

Examiner: A. Ghyka

Group Art Unit: 2812

Attorney Docket No.: 2269-6095US
(2003-0593.00/US)

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

March 15, 2010

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is filed in response to the Notice of Allowance mailed December 17, 2009 and sets forth Applicant's comments, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e), on the Examiner's Statement of Allowable Subject Matter accompanying the Notice of Allowance.

In the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner indicates:

The closest prior art known to the Examiner is listed on the PTO 892 and IDS forms of record. None of the cited references anticipate or make obvious *inter alia* forming a support structure on an active surface of the semiconductor

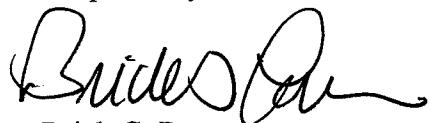
substrate such that the support structure includes an outer peripheral portion that extends beyond an outer peripheral edge of the semiconductor substrate and a downwardly extending portion located laterally adjacent to the outer peripheral edge of the semiconductor substrate; removing material from a back side of the semiconductor substrate to form a thinned semiconductor substrate, as required by the aforementioned claims.

Applicants concur with the reasons as stated by the Examiner insofar as they comprise a summary, which is exemplary and not limiting. However, the scope of the claims is based on the actual language of the claims and equivalents thereof, and not on a paraphrase or summary of the claim language.

The Independent claims as allowed recite features and methodology in addition to, and in different language than, those described in the Statement of Allowable Subject Matter. Furthermore, the dependent claims recite elements in addition to those of the independent claims, which are also not reflected in the Statement of Allowable Subject Matter. Such additional elements, in combination with those of the independent claims from which each claim depends, provide additional reasons for patentability. Accordingly, the scope of the claims must be determined from the literal language of each as a whole, as well as all equivalents thereof.

Therefore, to the extent that the Examiner's reasons for allowance as stated are not relevant to, or wholly encompassing of, a particular claim, independent or dependent, Applicants assume that (pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e)) the Examiner has determined that the record of the prosecution as a whole of the application makes clear the reasons for allowing those claims. Further, it appears, pursuant to M.P.E.P. 1302.14, that the Examiner's Statements of Allowable Subject Matter are not intended to encompass all of the reasons for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 15, 2010

BGP/kso/jh

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